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### **Talking Points On Sino-Pakistan Nuclear Agreement**

**The text of the Sino-Pakistani nuclear cooperation agreement has not yet been released, although some details have been gleaned through diplomatic channels:**

- Areas of cooperation include non-military nuclear technology: radio-isotope and nuclear medical research, agricultural irradiation techniques, commercial nuclear power plant technology.
- All cooperation efforts between China and Pakistan will be under IAEA safeguards. No specific sales are in the works. Resale of technology or equipment to third parties require approval of China, Pakistan, IAEA.

**China's reasons for negotiating and signing this agreement are unclear.**

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**Beijing gains several benefits, none particularly time-sensitive:**

- By signing an agreement with Pakistan that calls for IAEA safeguards, China as an IAEA member can build on its image of responsiveness to world proliferation concerns, while keeping a pro-Third World image.
- China may hope to reduce US and international apprehension about Beijing's purposes in nuclear cooperation with Karachi. China insisted that its earlier statements on nonproliferation--made during negotiations for a cooperative agreement with the United States--be included in the agreement with Pakistan.
- China may want to develop a nuclear export market in Pakistan in nonsensitive areas but fears international criticism in the absence of an agreement. Beijing is seeking to expand foreign exchange earnings from exports, and may see Pakistan as a prime market.
- China's plans for commercial nuclear power are leading to increased reliance on US-derived technology. Beijing may feel a need to improve China's proliferation posture before seeking contracts with US firms, to reduce political objections.

**We cannot rule out the possibility, however, that China may feel it will be easier to cooperate clandestinely with Pakistan behind the smokescreen of regular, IAEA-safeguarded cooperation activity in non-sensitive areas.**

- China did not seek or receive a commitment from Pakistan, as we requested in our demarche, that all Pakistani nuclear facilities be opened to IAEA inspection.

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